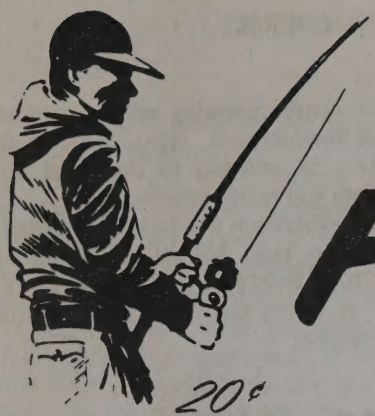
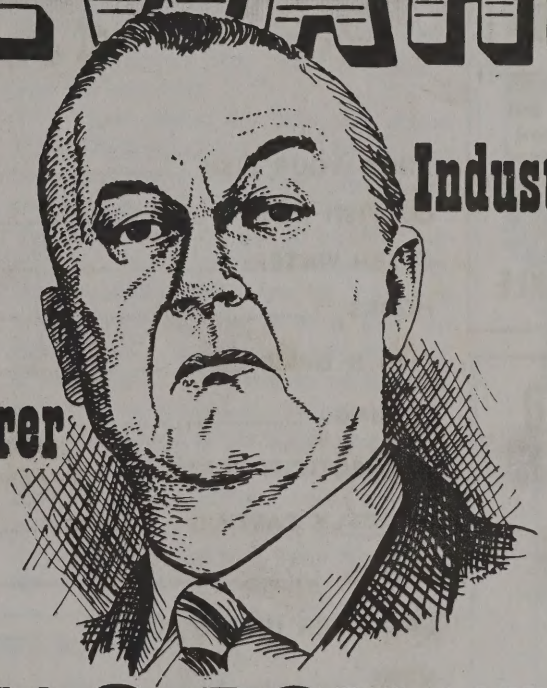


The Long Island FISHERMAN

MARCH 2nd, ISSUE NO. 6, 1972

REWARD



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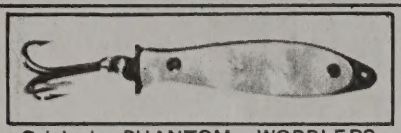
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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION COURSE

Flotilla 13-8, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, announces that they have scheduled a Public Instruction Course in small boat handling and seamanship. The course will be held at Douglas MacArthur High School, Old Jerusalem Rd., Levittown, starting March 7th at 8:00 P.M.

This will be a new expanded 12 lesson course covering sailing, weather, engine maintenance, radio, compass and charting in addition to the usual boat handling and safety lessons.

Registration will be held at Douglas MacArthur High School on March 6th and 7th at 8:00 P.M., or contact Flotilla 13-8 at (516) CA 1-0141 for further information.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA
PUBLISHED SINCE 1966

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L.I.F. CONTEST & RECORD BOOK

With this issue, we are launching two new programs - The L.I.F. Fishing Contest and the L.I.F. Record Book. Each of these programs was designed as a reader service which will stimulate our sportsman's desire to compete, and quite simply, make our sport more enjoyable.

The Record Book will be kept as uncomplicated as possible. It will be somewhat different from the gamefish records in the respect that it will contain all the sought-after fish that inhabit our waters, whether or not they are considered gamefish. The use of treble hooks and wire or metal line will be allowed. All we ask is that you catch your fish unassisted and in accordance with sporting ethics.

The complete rules, regulations and applications should be available through your tackle dealers. If for some reason they don't have them, then simply write to us and we'll get all that you need mailed right out to you.

Frank Keating of the LONG ISLAND PRESS wrote, "I think the idea of a L.I. Record Book is a good one. You're asking for a lot of work and argument. I suspect the good-will should balance the scale."

As I said earlier, this program was designed to make our sport more enjoyable. I certainly hope our readers are not the type that prefer to buy a trophy at the store, in place of earning them.

As far as the contest is concerned, that too was designed as a competitive, fun thing, not a cut-throat, money-making enterprise. This is why only the weekly prize of $12.00 will be determined by the size fish you catch. The $50.00 monthly prize and the three, year-end grand prizes (1st - $500.00; 2nd - $250.00 and 3rd - $100.00) will be determined by a drawing. The monthly prize will be drawn from all the entrants to the weekly contest. The year-end grand prize will be drawn from all those who have won a weekly prize.

We have worked out a point system which allows a flounder fisherman to compete with an offshore big game fisherman. This point system was devised by taking the heaviest known fish of each species and then reaching a parity between them. For instance, the largest striped bass is approximately 75 lbs. (rounded out for simplicity sake) and the largest bluefish 25 lbs. This means that bluefish run one pound for every three pounds of bass. That should give you the basic idea.

Once again, the rules and regulations and applications should be available through your tackle dealer. If for any reason they are not available, write to us. We will also follow up on both subjects on these pages in future issues. You probably have lots of questions concerning both the contest and the record book. Write in and ask; they will be answered. The winners of the contest and the leaders in the record book will also appear in the L.I.F. each week.

Remember, we have no entries right now. Everything is wide open, so even if you are confused, send in your application. There's an open record and the first $12.00 prize waiting.

PROPOSED GREENPORT AQUASEUM

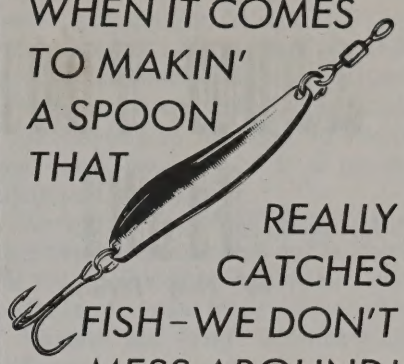
Salvatore C. Prato of 9 Genesee Drive wrote in to request contributions from our readership for the newly proposed Greenport Aquaseum. Sal said that the Aquaseum, which will be built by the Middle Atlantic Nautral Science Council, is a greatly needed project for the people of Long Island. The Aquaseum will be a non-profit educational institution which will livingly demonstrate the importance of the resources of the sea. The building will house a combination of aquarium and marine museum which will be devoted to the research and exhibition of coastal marine life of Long Island, its past, its present, and its future relationship to man. There will be laboratories, instruction rooms and a lecture hall to be used for related subjects.

Once monies are raised by contributions, the council will become eligible to receive State and Federal funding available for such educational projects. There will also be foundation grants available.

Sal went on to say that anyone sending in a contribution of a minimum of one dollar will receive a lapel button bearing the symbol of the Aquaseum. The tax deductable contribution can be sent to the Middle Atlantic Nautral Science Council, Inc., Greenport, L.I., N.Y. or to Salvatore C. Prato, 9 Genesee Drive, Commack, N.Y. 11725.

If any clubs are interested in helping this campaign, contact Mr. Prato by calling (516) 543-2641 after 7 P.M.

WHEN IT COMES TO MAKIN' A SPOON THAT REALLY CATCHES FISH–WE DON'T MESS AROUND!



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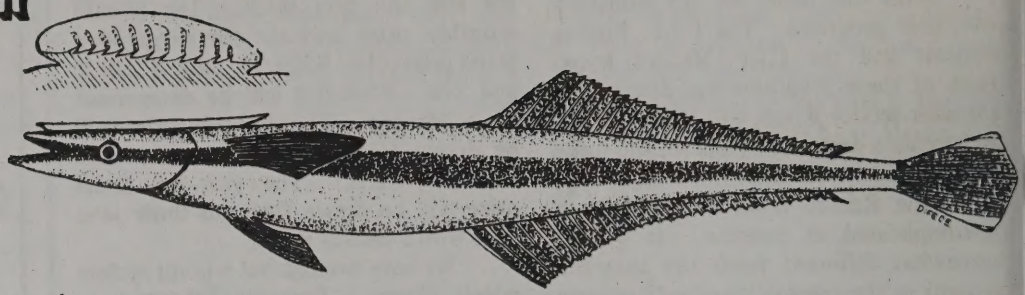
KNOW YOUR FISH!

REMORAS

by Tony DiFede



The sea harbors many strange and wonderful creatures; some animals, some plants, and some that scientists are still confused about. A recent T.V. show on sharks aroused my curiousity about an ancient species of piscatorial hitch-hikers, the Remoras.

There are three species of Remora of interest to North Atlantic Coasters; the Remora, the Swordfish Sucker, and the Shark Sucker. They all share more or less the same habits. So let's look at the one that is most well known, the Shark Sucker.

Physically, the only strange thing about the sucker is the disk on the top of its head. The outer edge of the disk is a soft sealing surface. The ridges inside the disk slant back. The ridges are bony with small spines. When the sucker attaches himself to a fish he places his disk on the fish's skin and raises the ridges. This produces a suction that holds him firmly to his host's skin. Once the sucker has attached himself, he can relax. The forward motion of his host will push the sucker back. This backward force keeps the ridges and spines on the sucker's disk raised and this maintains suction. The greater the backward force, the more the suction. If you try to pull a sucker fish by the tail to free him from his host, you'll never do it. The only way to release a sucker is to slide it forward along the host's body. This causes the ridges to lower, reducing the suction.

It's interesting to note that the suckers suction disk works even if the sucker is dead. A 4-inch sucker, dead or alive, can be used to hoist a 40 pound fish almost off the deck. The suckers body ruptures before the disk lets go. A full grown 3 or 4 foot sucker could surely be used to lift a 50 or 60 pound fish in the air.

The suction disk is really effective; Mother Nature has taken much more than 60 million years to develop it. That's right! Fossil remains of sucker fish date that far back and undoubtedly they have been around longer than that because the suction disk of the 60 million year old sucker was very similar to the present day sucker's. Many sharks have been essentially the same for the past 200 million years. Considering the affinity between shark and suckers, it's not unreasonable to believe that suckers started to evolve some 200 million years ago.

Besides the suction disk, there isn't much about the sucker to marvel about. The body is slender with a slightly sagging belly. The pectoral fins are set high on the sides. The lower jaw protrudes beyond the upper and the mouth is lined with small, sharp teeth.

It's fairly easy to distinguish a Shark Sucker from the other Remoras. The gray body has a dark strip edged with white from the corner of the mouth to the caudal fin. The caudal fin is black with white edges (this gives rise to the nickname 'white-tailed sucker'); the remainder of the fins are dark gray or black with specks of white, especially on the dorsal and anal fins. Coloration is really the most obvious difference in the Remoras. Neither of the other two have the strip or white markings. The Swordfish Sucker is reddish brown and the Remora is either soot colored, brown or almost black.

The enitre physical make-up of the sucker makes it look like it's built upside down. Go ahead, turn this page over. See what I mean? Except for the ventral fins being on top, it looks more conventional upside down.

Unfortunately, not much is known about the Remoras habits in regard to spawning or life style. The one habit we have some information about is their hitch-hiking habit. Before going on, there is one point that should be made. Remoras are not parasites; they do not feed on or damage their host in any way. They are what is known as commensal fish. They do no harm to their host. Apparently, this relationship only benefits the sucker. Sharks and other fish seem to put up with the sucker. The shark provides protection and food for the sucker. The sucker feeds on the scraps left over by the shark. Occasionally, the sucker will kill its own food, but this is probably not the rule with a Remora that has a host.

Shark Suckers, like other Remoras, do not only reside with one particular fish. Remoras may attach themselves to rays, skates, whales, billfish, barracuda, boats, debris, or whatever they take a fancy to. There is, however, one species that has only been found on barracuda. Oh well, all rules have their exceptions. Various Remoras got their names because they were found more often on a certain type of fish.

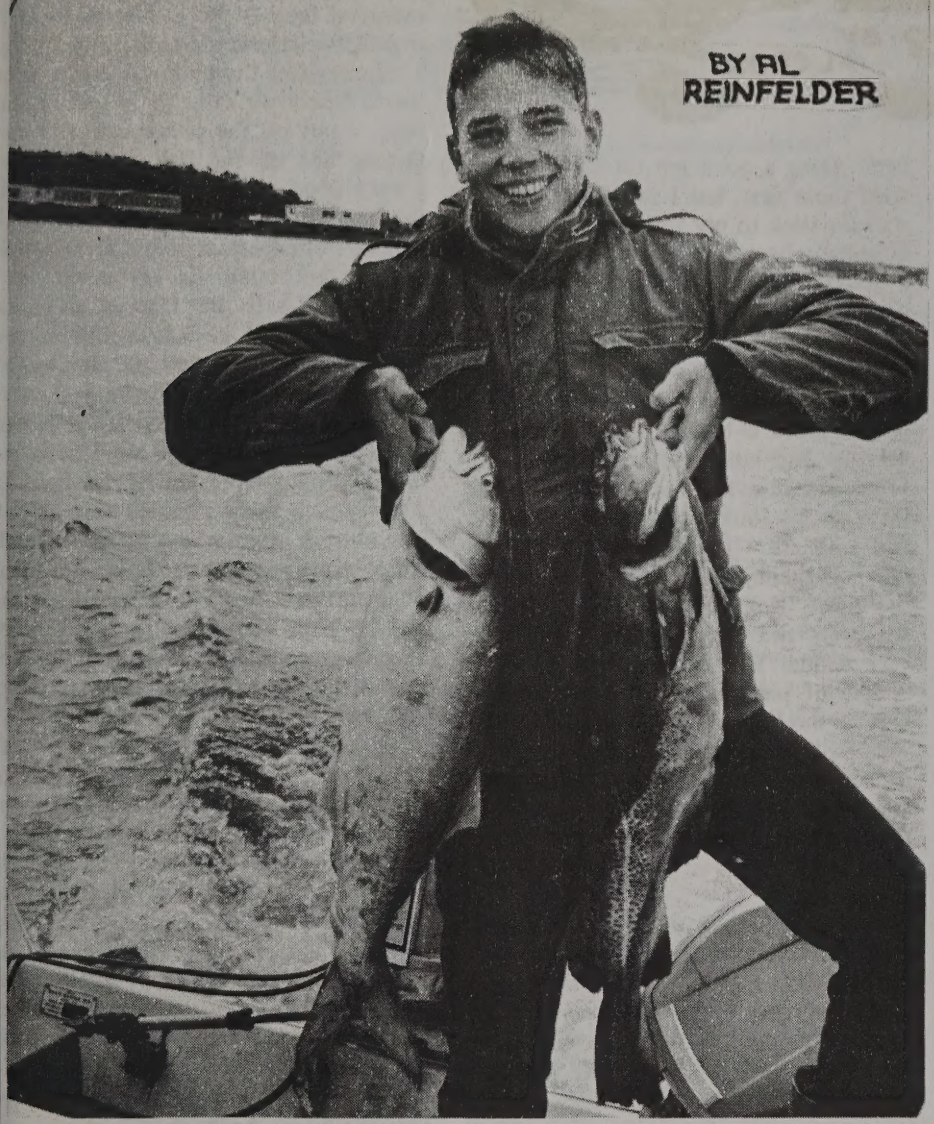
Apparently, Remoras are not distance swimmers. They can, however, swim fairly fast for short periods. This may be why sharks tolerate them - they can't catch them. I haven't heard or read of any instance where Remoras were found in sharks stomachs. Sometimes Remoras will enter their hosts gill cavity and attach themselves there - an easy place from which to steal some of their hosts dinner. Shark Suckers have also been found attached to the roof of a shark's mouth.

For hundreds of years, various peoples have been using Remoras to fish with. Remoras were both bait and hook. It was really quite ingenious. They attached a line to the Remoras tail and let it swim off. Once the Remora found a fish, the fisherman hauled in the Remora's unsuspecting host. This unique method of fishing was used by the Japanese, Indians, Malaysians, South Americans and others. In fact, the Australian Aborigines still use Remoras to catch fish and sea turtles.

Remoras are not considered to be very good food fish and they are of no interest to the sportfisherman, unless he wants to use one as a live hook! Who knows; it might be fun!

CODFISH BLUES

BY AL REINFELDER



Yes, folks, that's Peter the Hungry displaying a brace of fish he took last fall off Long Island's East End. We were, as usual, primed for a striped bass harvest, but something funny happened on the way to the point - we caught everything but striped bass. Well, not exactly everything. We didn't, for example, catch any mackerel - although there were some offshore; nor did we catch any giant tuna - which had just left Provincetown; nor did we catch porgy, blackfish, pollock, flounder or eels - all of which were in the neighborhood that day to some extent. But the two species we did catch - bluefish and codfish - provided us with considerable material for thought, as well as with a bit of interesting action. Until recent years bluefish were fairly well restricted to the summer season, while inshore codfish were a species related in our minds to early Spring and early Winter. Now, Fall fishing commonly finds striped bass, bluefish and codfish vying for the hook.

This Fall we landed all three species on the following lures: Bunker Spoons, Alou Eels, Bucktail Jigs, Giant Danny's Plugs, and Whirling Dervishes. (I met a man one night in the Shagwong Tavern who claims to have caught a striped bass, a codfish and a bluefish on each of the three hookers of a Whirling Dervish, while a weakfish simultaneously got hooked on the brass wire in one of the teasers. In all fairness, however, I must report that the man had been drinking and that later that night he engaged in a surf-casting duel with another Shagwong regular right in the middle of Montauk Highway. The duel involved four ounce pyramid sinkers at a distance of 250 feet. Fortunately they missed each other, although one sinker entered a parked jeep via a closed rear window. So it goes.)

The geographic range of bluefish has been rapidly expanding these last years. In the mid-sixties their re-appearance in Long Island Sound caused a tremendous stir among anglers on both shores. And there is no sign of let up here. In fact, the 1971 run in Little Neck Bay was unbelievable. Not just snappers and occasional five pounders, but schools of big choppers in the eight to twelve pound range hung around local bunker schools until late October.

As reported in the Salt Water Sportsman, blues hit several points on the Maine coast for the first time in decades. Great sportfishing for giant blues was reported off Virginia and North Carolina right into December.

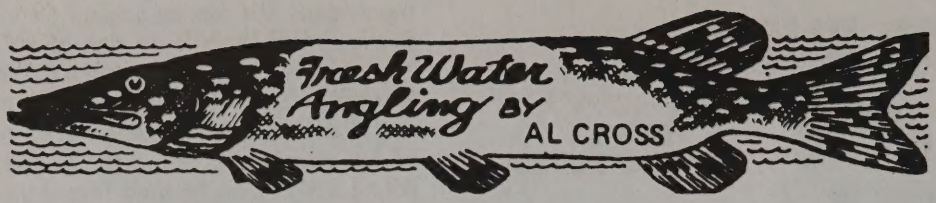
The fish seem to be arriving earlier and staying later with every passing year. I've never taken or heard of a December blue on Long Island, but the latest catches this year were darn close to that date. In the Spring, blues and bass start their runs almost simultaneously.

The great quantity of bluefish has some interesting consequences. For one thing, the fish are really cutting into a wide variety of other species. Not just spearing, mackerel, mullet, bunker, and sand eels, but blowfish, sea robins, flounders, and goodness knows what else. A friend of mine actually saw a school of yellow-tailed flounders that had been driven to the surface by marauding blues off the Tea House.

Another consequence of the bluefish hordes is that it makes striped bass fishing more difficult. If the choppers are not beating the stripers to your lures, they are busy driving the bass from their usual fishing haunts. This may not be too common out east, but in Long Island Sound it is a real problem to serious bassmen.

It is interesting to note that after a number of years during which bigger and bigger bluefish were caught every season, the records have not exactly been popping off like strings of fire crackers. A few years ago a new bluefish record would have been established were it not for the hide-bound rules of the IGFA. But since then, there has not been a parade of 25 pounders. Although the number of fish between 15 and 20 pounds has increased dramatically, the upper limits of the fish's size seems to hold. I think it is true of all creatures that although giants occur, the species as a whole has pretty fixed limits to its growth. For the blues which visit Long Island, the low twenties seems to be about it.

The quantity, range and long season of blues is certainly a blessing for fishermen who enjoy gamefishing, because these fish can be taken on almost any type of gear on almost every shore of Long Island.



In the past few years we have seen the comeback of a great saltwater fish. One that, when fished for properly, will warm the blood and quicken the pulse of any fresh water angler. If you haven't guessed the name of the fish I'm referring to already, it's the sea trout, or as they are called locally, weakfish.

About four years ago these scrappy gamesters started to make their comeback on the fishing scene. The first indication I had of their return to Long Island waters was at about that time. I have a great love for snapper blues and I spend many an hour in the late summer and in the fall chasing these lively little devils with ultra-light tackle. Involved in this sport, I found myself, and other nearby fishermen, catching small weaks mixed in with our snappers. The size of these fishes ranged anywhere from about three to ten inches and were being caught more and more frequently all the time.

The following year they appeared in greater abundance and of a better size. I took one that year that weighed between 1½ and 2 pounds. The third year I began hearing reports early in the season of bigger and more weaks, particularly in the area off Fire Island's Ocean Beach, near Buoy 13. Since I'm always quick to cash in on a tip like this, I decided to check out the stories. I took my boat to the area, found the hole off the buoy, and started fishing. I was using a method I had learned as a boy when the weaks were plentiful around here. With this set up you use a three-way swivel tied directly to your line. You put a three-foot leader from your swivel to your sinker and then another three-foot leader to your hook. You may use any bait with this rig, but I prefer squid strips or sandworms. I also prefer drifting with the boat rather than sitting at anchor. Well, I'd hardly been fishing ten minutes when I had my first fish, and more came steadily until the tide changed. I took, and released, about twenty fish, all in the one to three pound class. A good day in anyone's book!

On that first trip to Buoy 13, I had tried using a light six-foot spin stick and that served to heighten my enjoyment. The next time out I decided to start experimenting with other tackle and new techniques. Having heard, through the fishing grapevine, that diamond jigs had been doing a good job on the weaks, I tried those first, but I switched from my six-foot stick to my four and a half foot ultra-light freshwater Fenwick and from a six-pound test line down to a two-pound test. With these I used the smallest diamond jigs I could find. All you had to do to put a fish on was drop your jig to the bottom after a cast and then bounce it back. Six times out of ten you had hung a fish. From the jig I then shifted to small bucktails, and went through my box of freshwater spoons and spinners. They all took fish with fair consistency but not as surely as did the jigs. Next I happened on a few streamers and some wet flies that were very similar to grass shrimp. With a couple of pinches of shot to take this bait to the bottom, I had found a lethal weapon that produced consistently on nearly every cast. The rest of that season I used pretty much the same flies on a fly rod and the results were great. My largest fish was just a shade under five pounds.

I spent this past season on the water as a clammer working out of Bay Shore. Finishing my clamming day, I was right there at the water to take advantage of any good fishing that came up. With the big influx of weaks, they became one of my prime targets. As the summer moved on, their range spread all over the bay. Some mornings, at dawn, my friend and I would spend a half hour in the area about a hundred yards off the Bay Shore Marina breakwater before starting our clamming. It was no trick at all, in that short time, to take and release a couple of dozen one to four pound fish. I was yet to take a five pounder or better. That came purely by accident. As I was clamming one morning, off the Town of Islip beach, I noticed a slow build-up of birds about mid-bay and a quarter mile east of my position. Suddenly the birds started diving. Even at that distance I could see the fish rolling on the surface. I pulled in my rake and grabbed my rod. Starting up my engine, I ran to the school of fish. When I arrived on the scene, I found the water was alive with small blues. I was able to plug about ten fish before the school sounded. Knowing that you can sometimes pick up a few fish by deep trolling the area after the school sounds, I tied on a deep runnin mackerel finished Rebel plug and starte trolling back to my clamming area. Abou a minute after the plug was down, the was a heavy strike with a good stron run. I put on the pressure and starte gaining line on the fish. It was givin a very good account of itself in a wa that wasn't the kind of fight you woul expect from a small blue. The though crossed my mind that it might be school sized bass. But it wasn't as bullis as a bass would be. Suddenly my u known opponent rolled on the surfac about forty yards from the boat, showin a silver side and a broad tail. Even afte that quick glimpse I still could not gue the identity of the fish I was fightin After a few more minutes and anothe hot run or two, the fish was finall close enough to recognize. To my grea surprise I saw it was a large tide-runne weak. With another half hour trollin I took three more fish. The first one, th largest of the four, was just an ounc under eight pounds. The smallest was shade over five. The rest of the seaso I took fish on all types of artificials. Th hottest lure of all was the Boone Shrim Tout; a two inch plastic shrimp with lead head. This little item is downrigh deadly, to the point where it ought to b outlawed.

All in all the weakfish is back an can be caught on just about any artificia you try with your lightest of tackl either fly rod or ultra-light spinnin tackle. There are many fisherman, and know one in particular, who welcom the return of the weaks with open arm or better yet, with rod ready in hand.

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by TED NESS

With the availability of so many hooks on the market, have you ever wondered "WHY?"

Well, the first and most obvious reason is that fish are not all the same. They come in all sizes, shapes, and personalities. There are suckers (in more than one way), biters, and swallowers. Some are agressive, some are timid, and some are just plain gluttons. There are big mouths, small mouths, hard mouths, and soft mouths. There are strong fish and weak fish (no pun intended); and fast fish, and slow fish. And finally, if the hook doesn't do its job . . . NO FISH.

Okay then, how do you determine which hook is best for each fish? That's a good question, which unfortunately is more than I can say for my answer.

There is no magic formula . . . no weight times length divided by the sum of the square root of the diameter of the mouth and the weight of the brain in grams. Oh no, it's not that simple.

Even simple logic doesn't help much. For instance, it would be logical to assume that the size of the hook is determined by a fish's oral capacity . . . big mouth . . . big hook. This works quite well in the case of a flounder, or a shark - but why then are small hooks used for big mouthed fish such as a trout?

In this case, another factor enters the picture . . . selectivity. Not having the gluttonous nature of a shark or a flounder, the trout will ignore any bait or lure that does not fit their idea of a succulent easy mark. Unfortunately, this trait is not limited to trout (as you tuna bait-fishermen well know), for even the dum-dum flounder or the aquatic garbage disposal device known as the shark, will reject a perfectly palatable tidbit at times. Whether he refuses your offerings because he's not in the mood, or because he has a full belly, or possibly the last snack gave him heartburn, is of little matter. The important thing is that all fish may, at one time or another, refuse the traditional offerings.

Let's say, that by some magic formula, we are able to determine the proper hook size for each fish. This still leaves us with figuring out how long to make the shank, what type of bend to use, which point is best, and many other factors which must be considered.

As a reinforcement for discussion above, let's just consider the shank for a moment. A long shank is primarily (and there are exceptions) used to protect the line from sharp teeth and to provide a handle for leverage in removing the hook. (If you ever had a rebellious bluefish try to amputate your favorite finger during unhooking . . . you say the longer the shank, the better the hook.) Here again, though I hate to bring it up again, what about finicky trout and his friends? They are not going to be suckered in by a bait with a metal lollypop stick.

You could go on and on, establishing reasons for using certain hook features, and then listing exceptions to the logical reasons you have developed. So what's the use then of even trying to figure out the best hook for the job? No one expects an angler to look at a fish and then pick out of the thousands available, one hook that will do the best job. Fortunately for us all, hook manufacturers and the experience of years of fishing, have narrowed the field down to a few hooks for each fish.

Packaged hooks quite often have the name of the fish printed on their lables, and in most cases are the most suitable for the job. Your tackle dealer will also give you hooks which will provide you with a fair chance of catching the game you seek. Thank goodness someone has taken this problem out of your hands . . . but wait, don't get too complacent. No hook is meant to work under all conditions, and this is where hook savvy comes into the picture. Under different fishing conditions, substitutes have to be used to provide a suitable bait presentation.

For example, a good striped bass hook for drifting and clam chumming is the Eagle Claw bait holder. It has a barbed shank which keeps the bait in place and an offset point which will give you greater hooking ability. In quiet waters or a gentle current, this hook performs like a charm, BUT . . . use this hook in a tidal rip, or troll it behind a boat and WOW . . . your line develops more curls than a Shirley Temple doll.

As the moving waters meet the offset point (reinforced, with a clump of bait) the hook begins to act as a windmill. Even swivels do not always counteract this action, and as many reduce hardware to an absolute minimum, this hook will not make you at all happy.

Hooks must do their jobs under the conditions you fish. No matter what it says on the label, it is the wrong hook unless it does. This brings us to the most important piece of hook lore in the book.

To be any good, above all things, a hook must be sharp. If it won't easily pierce your earlobe on a sloppy cast, you have a safe hook . . . but remember . . . it is just as safe for the fish. More fish have escaped the frypan because of dull hooks than any other reason I can think of. Don't think you never have to worry because you only use brand hooks, for many of them are duller than the sex life of an earthworm.

When you are spending a bundle on gear, bait and fuel, it makes good sense to invest a few pennies more and buy the best hooks available. A lost trophy and a bent or broken hook will open your eyes to this fact . . . but one fish too late.

Hook savvy will put you one step higher in the fishing game, and soon, when experience and skill have developed you into the angler you yearn to be, you can stop wasting all your good alibis on your fishing friends, and start using them on your wife . . . where they count the most.

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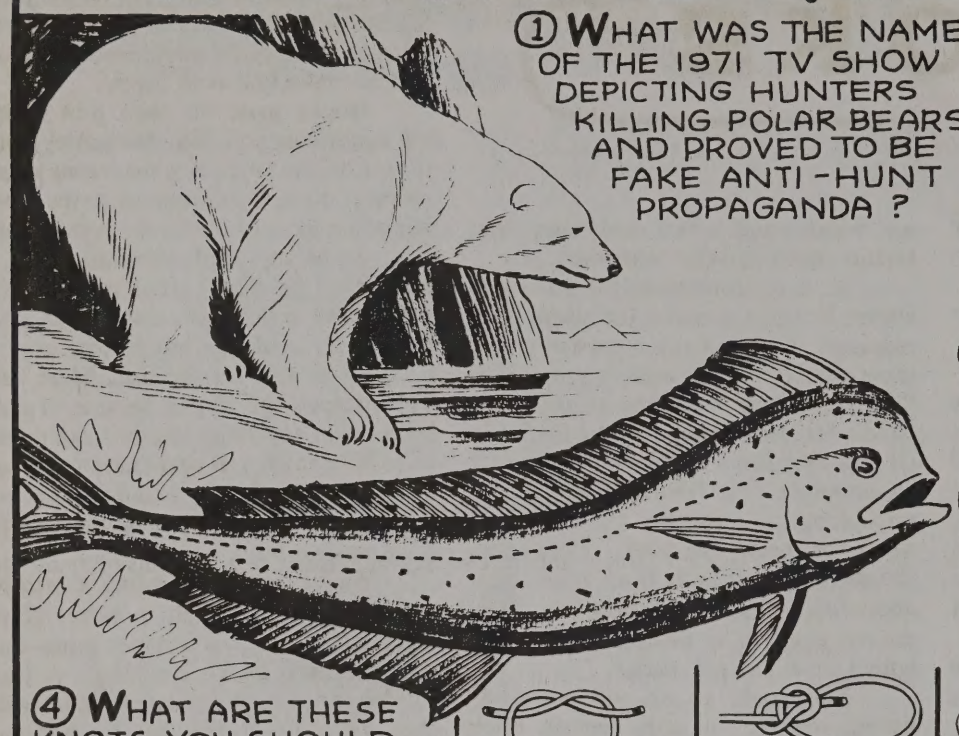
FISH & GAME QUIZZ

BY FRED GUARDINEER

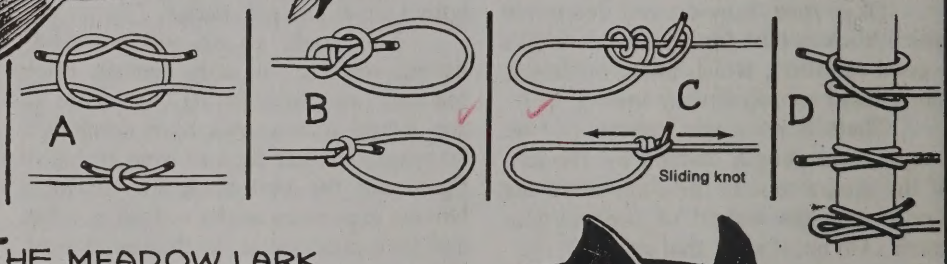


① WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE 1971 TV SHOW DEPICTING HUNTERS KILLING POLAR BEARS AND PROVED TO BE FAKE ANTI-HUNT PROPAGANDA ?

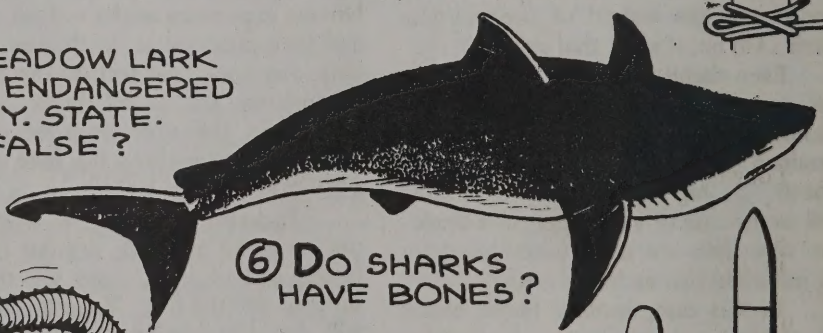
② HOW CAN YOU KILL AND DESLIME A PAIL OF LIVE EELS IN A COUPLE OF HOURS ?

③ WHAT SENSE DO FISH HAVE THAT OTHER ANIMALS DO NOT ?

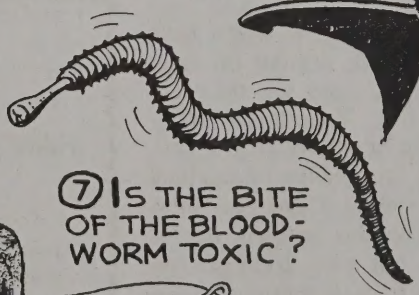
④ WHAT ARE THESE KNOTS YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO USE WITH YOUR BOAT'S TIE ROPES ?



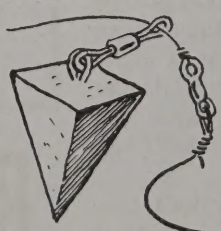
⑤ THE MEADOW LARK IS ON THE ENDANGERED LIST IN N.Y. STATE. TRUE OR FALSE ?



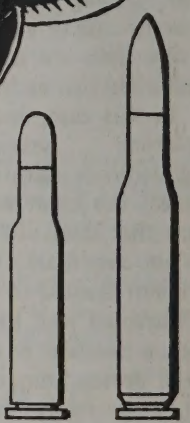
⑥ DO SHARKS HAVE BONES ?



⑦ IS THE BITE OF THE BLOOD-WORM TOXIC ?



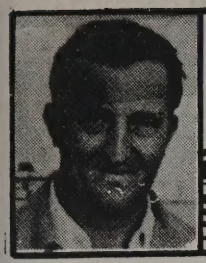
⑧ WHERE IS THE PYRAMID SINKER USED?



30-30 30-06

⑨ MORE DEER HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE 30-06 THAN THE 30-30. TRUE OR FALSE ?

① "SAY GOODBYE" ACTUALLY A FILM OF GOVERNMENT AGENTS TRANQUILIZING A POLAR BEAR FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES. ② POUR A POUND OF SALT ON THEM IN A WATERLESS BUCKET. ③ NERVE ENDINGS ALONG HIS SIDE THAT PICK UP VIBRATIONS IN WATER. ④ A - SQUARE KNOT, B - BOWLINE, C - TAUTLINE HITCH, D - CLOVE HITCH ⑤ FALSE. THIS BIRD IS INCREASING HIS RANGE. ⑥ SHARKS HAVE CARTILAGE, BUT NO BONES. ⑦ YES, MILDLY, SIMILAR TO A BEE STING. ⑧ IN THE SURF ON SANDY BOTTOM. ⑨ FALSE. THE MUCH LESS POWERFUL 30-30 HAS ACCOUNTED FOR MORE DEER IN THE 75 YEARS OF ITS USE.



FISHING

by VLAD EVANOFF

HAS FISHING BECOME TOO EXPENSIVE

A day's fishing today will cost you anywhere from a few bucks to $150.00 or more depending on where you fish, how you fish, what kind of fishing you do and whether you have your own boat, rent one, share one or charter one. Or whether you fish from shore, the surf, a pier, jetty or a dock.

Some types of fishing are still relatively cheap and you can usually manage to get away with spending only a few dollars or even less if you do that kind of fishing. Take surf fishing, for example; once you have the necessary fishing tackle and gear you can drive down to the beach or jetty, walk out and fish for a few hours and then come home and your biggest expense will be the money you spent for gasoline to get there and to replace any lures you may lose. If you use bait you may have to spend another dollar or two. The same goes for fishing from a dock, pier or bridge. You can buy some bait, drive down to such a spot and fish all day at little or no expense.

The only trouble in the New York and Long Island area is that there are few fishing piers, docks or bridges from which you can fish. And the few that you have are in the wrong places and not too productive. The North Carolina or Florida angler is much better off - - - they have many fishing piers along the ocean front where they can fish. Some of these are free, while others charge anywhere from a quarter to a dollar for a day's fishing. Florida also has many bridges where you can fish. The Florida Keys bridges have special catwalks built just for fishing. New York is way behind these states when it comes to catering to fishermen.

So a family that wants to go fishing in our area at little cost is in a bad way. They can't find a fishing pier, dock or bridge close to home. If they don't own a boat and have to rent one (a big family may need two boats) the cost is prohibitive for a family living on a tight budget. And many parents are afraid to take young children out in a small boat. Especially if they don't know too much about fishing, boat handling, tides and the weather. They prefer the safety and convenience of fishing from a dock, bridge or pier.

We mentioned earlier that surf fishing is still economical if you fish close to home and don't become too serious about it. In other words, if you surf fish only once in a while and don't go out every weekend or even during the week. But serious surf anglers can also spend quite a bit of money if they want to buy a beach buggy or camper or trailer and travel long distances for their sport. Of course, if they do a lot of fishing they can save on motels and meals with such vehicles. Many families nowadays couldn't do much fishing or traveling without such a camper, trailer or mobile home. But these are still a big initial investment and you'll spend a lot of money just for fishing if that is the only reason you bought such transportation and living quarters. Not everybody is that crazy about fishing.

The same goes for boats. As any boat owner knows, a boat can run into a lot of money if it's any size and if you use it often. The initial investment, maintenance, repairs, storage and running it can eat up a lot of dollars. Especially if you do a lot of offshore fishing and burn up gasoline and diesel searching for billfish or tuna or trolling at fast speeds. Even slow trolling inshore all day or all night and running back and forth to the fishing grounds for such fish as striped bass will burn up quite a bit of fuel. I know some anglers who own a boat, but rarely go out alone. Not because they are afraid or don't like to fish alone. But mainly because they want to have other anglers or friends share the cost of gasoline, bait or chum.

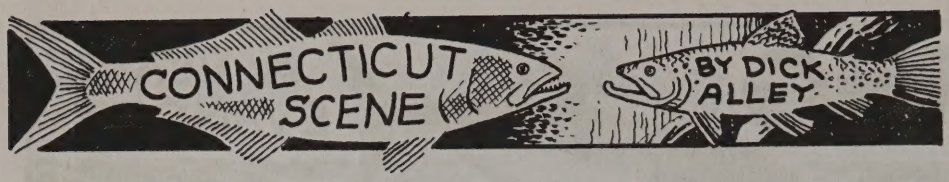
If you don't own a boat and want to do offshore fishing, you can, of course, charter a boat. Unlike striped bass fishing or bluefishing on nearby grounds inshore where you can often charter a boat for a half day, most offshore fishing in our area requires a full day. This can run you anywhere from $100. to $150. or more depending on what kind of fishing you do and how much chum you use and how far you have to go. Of course, you can split this cost with other anglers and it will cost less for each individual; many anglers couldn't do offshore fishing if they didn't do this.

If you like party boat fishing, you're more fortunate than most anglers because this is still one of the biggest bargains in salt-water fishing. For a few dollars you can be taken miles out to sea and spend a day fishing and usually catch some kind of fish. Bait is usually provided at no extra cost and that alone can run up to two or three dollars for a day's fishing if you buy your own bait.

Speaking of bait, that cost is also steadily rising and a couple of dozen sandworms or bloodworms or a bushel of skimmer clams or a few cans of chum can add quite a bit to the cost of a day's fishing. Not to mention such an expensive bait as a dozen soft crabs or shedders which most anglers cannot afford at all these days. Years ago, with wilder areas and less pollution, an angler could go out and dig his own worms, gather his own clams or catch his own crabs. But today there are fewer places you can do this and the supply has dwindled so that it hardly pays for the time and effort it takes. So you usually have to buy the bait.

But don't blame the bait dealer or tackle dealer. They have to pay more for bait themselves, and handling bait isn't too profitable. They often lose money when the weather turns bad for any length of time or on a weekend or holiday after they have stocked up in advance. It's also a lot of trouble to keep the bait alive or fresh and they lose money if the bait dies and can't be sold. Bait dealers, tackle shops and boat liveries carry bait as a convenience to fisherman rather than for profit.

Does this all mean that fishing is too expensive and not worth the effort? No, not at all - - - when you compare it to some sports such as golf or bowling. Not to mention such pastimes as horse racing, drinking at a bar or going to a night club or just living it up. You can spend a lot more money for these and have less to show for it. At least you have some fish to eat after most fishing trips. And such benefits as fresh air, sun, exercise and relaxation, I feel, are worth any reasonable amount of money you spend on the sport. And there are so many kinds of fishing you can do that you can usually choose the type that fits your budget.



Party boats are a way of fishing for many anglers. Often fishermen anchored to the city all week will relax on the weekend via a party boat. That first time fishing trip for your young angler-to-be can reap extra benefits on a party boat.

What are the advantages of party boat fishing? First and foremost is the fact that party boat skippers can and should be classified as experts. The captain's main goal in life is to see that you, the customer, catch fish. If you leave his boat happy, chances are you'll be back for a return trip. Secondly, the angler needs no fancy or expensive equipment. If your outfit doesn't suit the purpose, an adequate outfit can be rented at a reasonable price.

Third, there is a mate aboard. He keeps you well supplied with bait, assists in bringing fish aboard, offers advice when needed, and untangles those lines when they become snarled.

Party boats fish for many different species, depending on the season. While the boats in Long Island Sound concentrate mostly on flounder, blackfish, mackerel, and occasionally a bluefish bonanza, those boats out of Montauk, New London and Point Judith favor cod, bluefish and blacks, and mackerel. Striped bass are seldom the quarry of a party boat fisherman, but they too come aboard when the run is on.

A licensed skipper must be qualified, and have the necessary electronic equipment aboard to insure the safety of his passengers. Radar, depth-finders, fish finders and the like are common. He knows the waters he fishes, probably better than the pattern of the carpet on his living room floor. He knows what time and tide to fish each spot for best results.

Party boats have another attraction in the form of a heated cabin, below decks and out of the weather, making those early spring and late fall runs to the fishing ground a comfortable ride rather than a windblown wet one.

Party boats are reasonable. A full day on the water, probably costs less than an afternoon at the ball park, and then there's the bonus of fresh fish on the table for a few days.

Last week, I attended my first meeting of the rules committee for the R.J. Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest. The committee vote was unanimous in favor of including the party boat fishermen in on some Schaefer Awards. Every party boat skipper can get in on the action.

The party boat contest features a weekly award for the largest fish of any species taken on each boat. The species of fish will be selected by the skipper. (After all, he knows what's hitting best on a given date.) The winning angler each week will receive a Certificate of Achievement provided by the Schaefer Circle of Sports, along with a "Best Angler of the Week" button to wear on his trips. The angler catching the largest fish of the year on each boat, receives a pin. The angler catching the largest fish in each port receives a pin and a trophy, and that fisherman catching the largest fish in each state receives a pin and trophy for that achievement.

As far as this writer is concerned, the Party Boat Program is an excellent addition to the Schaefer Circle of Sports. I'll be looking for many new catches for this column in the coming year.

Any party boat skipper need only drop me a line for additional details on this contest. I'll see you get the necessary information to become a Schaefer Circle of Sports Party Boat. Write c/o The Long Island Fisherman, or to Dick Alley, 1109 E. State Street, Westport, Conn. 06880.

Whether you're a regular on the party boats, a beginning angler, someone who's just thinking about trying our sport, or a veteran fisherman with your own fishing machine, a day on a party boat will be most rewarding. I can just about guarantee you won't return with an empty fish bag.

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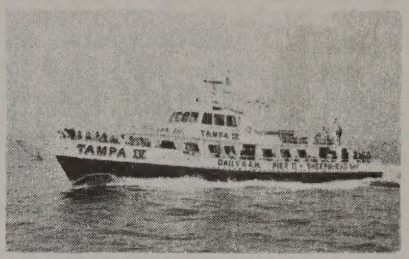

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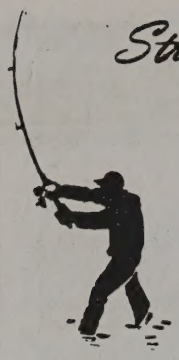

Strictly Casting

by

Vince Guaglianone

A CALM CHOWDER SURF

A week of one springtime, I fished the surf for three days that were clear and cold. There was nothing for any caster along the bright wash. Then the wind changed and for a whole day it blew strong from the sea. That day I was at work; but off again the following day, I sped shoreward through the drizzle and fast showers. On this calm, dark, and warmer day the grey surf was also calm. But many broken-up and whole clams filled the wash. A "Clam chowder surf", as it is called.

Now this was Cedar Beach, and I had gotten there early. Throughout this misty day more and more casters came to fish bottom with worms and clam. Some casted the big Hopkins with single hook; dragging it in very slow. When I arrived, the flood was four hours up; and not quite eight hours later, the tide was almost all out. By that time the line-up was pretty tight, and if a man sand-spiked two or three rods, he got dirty looks. Although there hadn't been the touch of a bass all day again, yet many of us were expecting action any minute now in this clam chowder surf. It had often in the past brought action at low ebb.

Suddenly, near the ebb's last half hour, rod-tips were bending over hard and all along the shore anglers were jumping to their spiked rods. Mostly school bass were beached. But a Hopkins-dragger beyond the line-up, working a cove by himself, made a cast sideways to a trough between swells and connected with a striper of 21 pounds which did not fight too hard. And a clean 10-pounder swallowed a worm and ran out rightwards in the ebb's last current. Surfmen helped each other to prevent tangled lines; and one good fellow hand-gilled and punched that 10-pounder for my elated wife. This was her first bass ever, and on her very first day in the true surf. It took me three damned years before I hooked my first 10-pounder in the surf. I had had no one to show me the finer points during those first years . . . But Martha had cast, not far; only to water ripping over a submerged sandbar close by.

Look for a clam chowder surf in the spring. Bass are still sluggish, and they root along the bottom then. In the spring, they take to shallower water warmed mid-day. If the beach-potential is like Cedar Beach, near an outflow (in this case, Fire Island Inlet), and the surf is richly crossed with sandbars and channels and sloughs like Cedar is, then bass will find food in close at low ebb. And a clam chowder surf (much more food) will hold bass in through all the flood as they follow the chowder swept back up by the tide. (So long as the wind does not rise blowing seaward strongly. This wind, or the first ebb tide of a moon-strong period, will sweep the chowder out too far for surfcasting.)

V - THE WEATHER: I chose to give the experience described above, because it contains an example of each of the conditions I've discussed in four preceeding articles, plus now the influence of weather. In this case, a weather-factor, the change of wind, caused a clam chowder surf.

Another weather-factor is that days dark and cloudy seem dramatically valuable at low tides; or for shores really shallow during all tides, as at Sunken Meadow. The eyes of the fishes are hurt by sunlight; their eyes can't adjust to glare and they have no eyelids. So in very shoal water, a darker day generally is best.

Surfmen often mention that storms are good. Storms "push in" the fish. Some beginners may lack confidence about this, so I would like to suggest the following: In a very interesting article, Vlad Evanoff told that fishes have a sensitive 'lateral line' on both sides of them (No. 48, 1971). This enables fishes to detect sounds, maybe even slight temperature changes, and certainly vibrations of movement in the water. Now when a fish moves, it displaces water, sending out vibrations. In calm swells little fishes easily sense the vibrations of this water displacement; and the baits dart away from the gamester before she can get too near. So perhaps big bass, 'lazy' and 'cautious', do prefer a stormy surf or to linger under a tumultuous white-water spot because of the confusion of vibrations here. Little fishes in the tumbling breakers can't so easily sense the particular vibrations of a gamester moving towards them. This may be why a stormy surf (or even a patch of white water) is often worth a try.

Wind is part of weather and it influences fishing as follows:

(1) Wind can push bait-schools in or out; or 'make' bait, as with a clam chowder surf.

(2) Wind can affect tidal stage: making more water when it blows strongly landward; or a strong enough blast can push back even a moon-tide flood.

(3) Wind can affect tidal current: it sharpens a current's rips when it blows against the current; or it erases the current's rips when it blows with the current.

(4) Wind can affect a surf's water condition; sandy, milky, clear, and so on. This helps determine which type of lure you should first tie on, to avoid wasting time while the fish go by your casts. In the daylight I think swimming plugs tend to want clearer water than jigs, while jigs can be successful even in sandy water sometimes. Although sometimes everything gets a strike, it's wise to start out by testing with what has worked most of the time under definite conditions.

(5) Obviously, wind helps or hinders the casts.

I put the casting-value of a wind as number (5), because I feel that we tend to emphasize too much the distant cast. We have all felt a little bit dismayed, secretly, during our first trips to the high surf. It all seems so largely uniform. And our behavior tends to flow out of a feeling that I call, 'boat-atosis'. "The further out you go, the more fish there are." True enough. But we can't really cast as far as a boat can reach. Yet we tend to strive for distance-casting, as if to compete with boats and so missing the opportunities that we do have. We fail to develop a sense of selecting and working skillfully the likely spots of surf-area within reach; forgetting how gamefish fin shoreward to feed in holes and in rock-rips quite close to shore where experienced boatmen are often at pains to get near enough. You should read an excellent article by Don Miller No. 17, 1971, showing in a diagram the nearness of bass to rocky shores; and emphasizing that one must have a technique of covering the likely spots with the worked lures. This often means diagonal, and even sideways casts from the shore, after wading out a little. The fish-locating performance is not the same as tournament casting.

When you find which weather conditions of days and nights are generally best for which beaches, you then know something that helps you choose which particular beach to try on your day or night off. This I emphasized in my previous where-to articles, and more recently in WHAT ABOUT THE SURF ITSELF when I discussed 'Mullet Autumn'.

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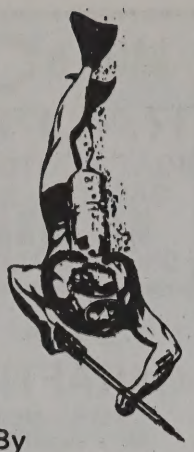
DIVING



By JIM McEVOY

DIVING

The sport of diving is growing in leaps and bounds, but unfortunately, the land developers are in a parallel growth pattern, thus closing the all too few, off the beach diving sites. Although, at present, nearly forty percent of the diving fraternity use and operate boats, the remaining divers will be forced to obtain a boat, if they wish to continue in the sport. The boat will be considered a part of the diver's equipment; as much a part as his diver's mask. But unlike the mask, a lot more expensive, and it will require a lot more thought before purchasing.

To the diver, a boat is a diving platform, a base of operations. The ideal unit would be a large, flat platform just a few inches off the water. Something fairly swift, very stable, seaworthy and easily transported over the road. Boats such as the platformed pontoon units meet many of these characteristics, but unfortunately, they cannot always take the onslaught of rough water which divers often frequent. This type of unit is not meant for open water or following seas. The rubber type units offer many of the requirements of the diver, but cannot accommodate enough divers and their equipment, plus they offer little or no resale value, and in spite of manufacturers claims, they cannot sustain the abusive use the divers give them. Even with the best of care, their life span is doubtful. Although maybe not the best for diving, the conventional type boat is what the diver has to settle for when purchasing a boat. Let's add up some of the things to look for.

DECK SPACE: The deck should be flat and have as much room as possible, made of extremely strong and durable material, able to withstand the dropping of tanks, weight belts, etc. Deck area should be covered with a non-skid material. The cockpit should be self-bailing with deck level above water level. Bilge pumps should be provided to remove water from the cockpit area while at anchor. Versatility with simplicity should be the byword in cockpit design. No fancy upholstery which cannot take constant wetting. Seats should be removable and could be used as bench chairs or can be left out completely. No sharp corners or projecting items than can cause damage to an individual as he scuffles about putting on his gear.

STORAGE SPACE: An area should be set aside for items of dry clothing, above water cameras and lunches, etc. It should be away from the dripping divers and wet gear. Tanks and other gear can be stored in the cockpit area, however, tanks should definitely be strapped down to keep them from rolling and bouncing in rough water. A fish box should be a definite piece of equipment or there should be storage space aboard your craft for fish, for invariably, without it, your gear will be completely covered with fish slime and blood. Storage space along the gunwale for such items as spear guns, knives, masks, and other accessories would be invaluable.

STABILITY AND SEAWORTHINESS: Working over shallow areas and wrecks puts an additional premium on stability of a diving craft over the normal boat usage. It is unanimously agreed that a number of accidents occur as a result of sudden tipping or rocking of a boat as a diver is getting in or out of his gear. The stability of a raft would be ideal, but this is hard to achieve. However, stability can be incorporated into hull designs by adding floatation to the outside edge of the hull. A fair amount of stability has been achieved in hull designs of the Catamaran, Gull Wing, Three Pointer, Boston Whaler, and other newer hull designs.

The outriggers used by the Polynesians on their canoes would be fantastic, but impractical for us. However, you may be able to incorporate the basic idea and also have a diving platform. Diving platforms on both sides of the boat that lock when in use and fold up to the sides when under weight are something to give thought to, for the boat manufacturers as well as the diving boat owner.

SEAWORTHINESS: This will be demanded from a boat used for diving more than a boat used for fishing or pleasure. Primarily because while exploring the sea floor, the diver is unaware of an approaching storm and can, upon surfacing, find himself in a violent summer storm. The normal boat owner has been aware of the approaching storm and has had plenty of time to seek safe anchorage.

MOBILITY: Most divers tire quickly of diving sites and are constantly seeking out new spots to explore. For this reason, the diving boat must be very easy to trailer and launch. This tends to eliminate inboards and the larger boats for they are troublesome to trailer and launch.

PAYLOAD: To determine the payload one must figure the minimum of four divers. A diver at 180 pounds and his gear at 150 pounds, we would come up with the minimum payload requirement of 1320 pounds. This does not include motors, gasoline tanks and regular boat accessories. These minimum payloads must be considered when choosing the power plant for you must have enough power to put the boat in a planning position with this minimum payload.

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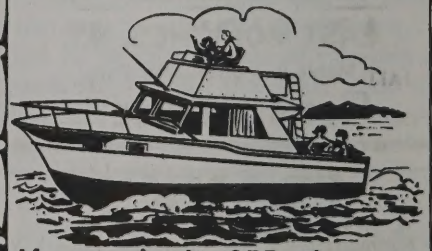

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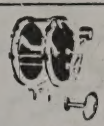

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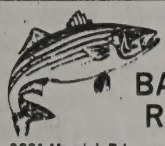

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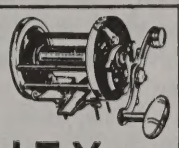

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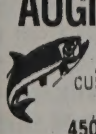

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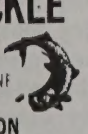

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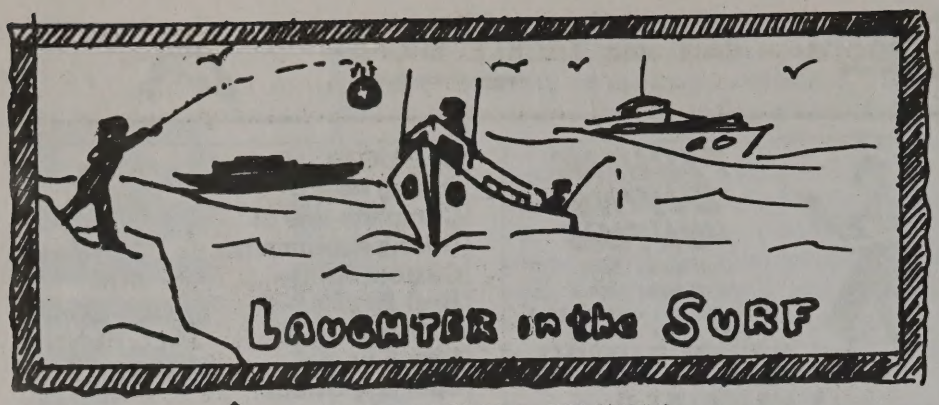

by ROD STRICKLEY-CASTEMONG

One good thing about the good old days, was all the teasing that went on between boat fishermen and surf-casters. Most often, each were equally aware of the qualities belonging to the other's sport, so a mutual respect and admiration lived beneath the joshing. And there was still much versatility. For example, many of those who could plane their way to Romer Shoal in early summer, would choose to work the surf behind Fort Tilden in the fall. Yet the fishermen who thought of themselves as primarily surfmen, and those who loved the open sea more, would often tease and dig each other (like at the Breezy Point Jetty; or in Phil's Tackle Store in Brooklyn) about the 'scared lubber way' (surfcasting) or the 'cheating fair-weather way' in boats.

Now, boats are what we got hit with last month in L.I.F.'s Special Issue. And not with the balance of yesteryear, but with today's preponderance of boat traffic on the water; which means that the magazine is very accurate.

But you know, after the summer it takes me quite a while to recuperate from all the Weekend-Skipper type of boat traffic. To get hit with it suddenly amid winter is too much. The shock is such, that teasing my way out of the Special Issue is the only therapy that will work.

However, going back through our Special Issue with an eye for sport fishing, we find how many merits it did have in addition to an excellent layout and some fine conservation remarks by Don Miller.

Reinfelder, he mentioned tuna; white marlin; and plugging for bass. Please Al, not too close when you really plug for bass because my wife may not recognize you, prior to the 4-ounce pyramid smashing through your windshield. I may not recognize you after she uses her new special issue sinker.

Alley scorned the keeping of undersized stripers. But would you eat any over 10 pounds nowadays? (This really isn't teasing, but an oblique recommendation. When you think of all the mercury I ignorantly swallowed in the past, you understand why I write this way now.)

Sosin described how you can still develop techniques with tackle, after merely locating the fish with electronic gear. Because knowing that there are fish below the boat makes your enthusiasm soar. Then you fish harder over those recorded fish, thereby gaining practice. But if you feel you've started to catch too many fish (Conservation!) you can always start tagging and releasing fish as easily as just loading up the boat. And in case this isn't the age of self-discipline, I recommend an invention of mine: "The sportsman-controller." This you plug into your soaring enthusiasm when the "fish machine" finds the fish, so that you can start tagging and releasing at a pre-set number. (Any attempt to re-set the number after plugging in, results in a self-destruct of the "sportsman-controller"; which also blows up the "fish machine," the sportsman, and the damned boat as well and completely.)

Vlad Evanoff reminded us that even in Massachusetts, back in the 1950's, there were surfmen who did what others felt was an admission of defeat: they launched a 'surf boat'. Recently, our Publisher-Boss, Rich Reina, casting at me a sidelong seductive glance, asserted: "You're coming out with us in a 'tin can' (another name for 'surf boat') on the Sound this summer!" Immediately I wondered to myself if "with us" meant: with Reina, Reinfelder, and Don Miller. So, hoping for the best I replied that sure I would come, on condition that I bring along another invention of mine: the 'boat-spike'. Like the sand-spike, the boat-spike would enable me to keep my rod erect ('no hands') so I could watch it even while out in the 'surf boat'. Secondly, since there may not be electronic equipment on board the 'tin can' (and Miller being together with Reinfelder in one craft there might be distress and I could use my erect surf-pole in the boat-spike driven through the 'tin can' to run up a red shirt for help. This red shirt I would purposely wear, so that no dumb-ass die-hard surfman on shore would recognize me; since I never wear any subversive red shirts while fishing or angling.

Good Milt Rosko focused most pleasantly on the bottom species, reminding me of my peaceful days over (for example) the Tin Can Grounds (before surf boats were discovered). But it also reminded me that there doesn't seem to be any more hump-back porgies or door-mat fluke surviving - they say it's the Russian technology offshore. Right on! Americans, of course, would never be so over-technological/ self indulgent as to push any of wild nature out of existance. No way! Not by the space of a plastic molecule and its polychlorinated biphenyls. Not by the twisted beak of a deformed tern. Not by the drip-drip of our outboards. Not by the filling in of another marsh for another marina. No way!

Admittedly, this wasn't teasing good Milt. I certainly can't blame the multifarious and dire chemical pollution of the seas on good Milt. Really at fault here is Milf, short for Milford "Stanley" Poltroon, my teacher; recommended by Al Reinfelder, who also was a teacher once, but in the restrictive educational system which Reinfelder quit because they would not let him push fishing in the classrooms.

This push of Al was labeled "The Reinfelder Scheme" by 'Lobster'. It was seen as a threat to the drug trade in the schools. ('Lobster' is code for the top man in charge of Patriotic Security: this code-word being hit-upon from the fact that Perry Duryea had finally named his pet lobster, 'Hoover'; which is from a now-archaic old nautical term - 'hoover' - derived from a statement frequently made by old-time offshore fishermen as they smacked their lips. For these hardy seamen used to determine their course at sea by licking and tasting the seabed brought up on their anchors: "It behooves yer t' know whar yer sailin'." All this became shortened to 'hoover', pertaining to that bottom-tasting method of navigation.)

Furthermore, 'Sandy' (more widely known as the Governor: you thought it was 'Rocky'?) Sandy was afraid that too many kids would become avid fishermen from the push of Al, and the kids would love water-wilderness "and all that" (as Sandy put it) and then the kids might effectively oppose Sandy's plans for span-

ning the Sound-barrier, beginning with the Bayville bridge which soon shall be constructed to solve the Sound (all the boat-noise, heh-heh) forever.

But it was Perry D. who advised Sandy how he could stem "The Reinfelder Scheme" without going through the whole usual shoot-out scene. Be diplomatic! So sandy told the Educational Authorities: "Let Reinfelder teach Fishing if he wants to. That's all right! But it can only be shore fishing in the boiling surf; only with the 'conventional' spool (heh-heh-heh: we don't want any upstart 'radical' spin-reels on our beaches, heh-heh-heh) and only casting Block Tin Squids made by Charlie Graves of Brooklyn originally."

When the Authorities passed this on to Reinfelder he wretched on them and shoved off. Since then he has been underway on his Pacific-originated craft, The Alou-Alou; guided by that South Seasman, Palma-Plama who catches most of the fish by diving methods not heretofore disclosed or opened up to the general public.

Recently Don Miller, who actually pushes Fishing in classrooms, but only after hours - when he learned of the Bayville Bridge being confirmed, he devised another course for after after-hours. This is a course in Underwater Demolitions; funded by Perry D. because it's an election year. Sandy understands this because it's Politics. But Lobster, always an old crab (heh heh, get it?) - he labeled Miller's course as Subversive; and Lobster will soon take appropriate action - which Sandy is counting on; and also Spear-o. (This is the correct spelling of Spear-o, who once was an underwater gunman and I reveal the facts of this matter in a future article called, "The Tin CAN'T").

Fred Guardineer, an onshore gunman, he showed how they weren't fishing in "Some of the First Boats." (You should study these drawings carefully: no rods.) This may imply where the first fishing started; and how it might all end. Good thing for us today that they didn't have 225,000,000 pounds of plastic hulls beginning from the Year 1 of-the-Boats.

This last numerical fact regarding masty plastic poundage that goes into boats, comes from one of Don Miller's articles in the Special Issue. An intense fishermen, Don was all over the Special Issue. This reflects the intensity he would have (which he previously promised us) once he got free of The Office. But the intensity is such, that one of Don's fishing spots is onshore! Here he can be observed sitting (strategically, and with waders-ready-to-be-jumped-into leaning against a 4-wheel drive); Don sitting atop the 4-wheel drive. From this vantage point, Don spies through binoculars on all intruders into fishing-good: damned seagulls; sailboats; ducks; helicopters; dumb-ass surfcasters wearing waders; jetliners; and buoys. This is known as "Don's View".

Lastly we come to the Special Issue's "Strictly Casting". (How does anyone cast strictly?) But in this article we find a most accurate photo, for it reflects the conditions which a surfcaster must fish under today. Fishing under, means developing a technique of casting UNDER the boats as they race by. This avoids contact with windshields; human flesh; portable T.V.'s; chum-pots; sonar screens; boat-poles; cases of canned beer; life-preservers; et. al. and boxes of what is called 'white drums' - to show a link with 'red drums', which are gamefishes of the South that are also called, channel basses (unstriped) and which dumb-ass surfcasters in waders try to catch by casting OVER. This takes place at the Outer Banks, where there are still only a few boats sometimes in that backward territory of North Carolina. (Small channel basses are called 'puppy drums' - for which no 'surf boats' or 'tin cans' are required either, or neither.)

But my wife (Martha) couldn't take seeing those boats in the photo's background in a column of mine (see her husband's article in the Special Issue?)

"That guy, whoever he is, looks like he's on his last leg!" shouted Martha with rage. "It's a disgrace Vince!"

"Not so," said I; feigning confidence and stern-ness. "He is really a great patriarch of surfcasting, which you could tell by the angle of his rod while he views those boats."

"How so?" asked Martha; appearing intrigued. "He looks like a lame old nut to me."

"Well," I explained, "anyone whose rod could still be up like that while viewing boats, must be a patriarch of the surf!"

"You mean," asked Martha, seeing the light: "surf-patriarchs can still raise their rods even when boats are around?"

"Of course!" I assured her.

"OH thank you Vince!" exclaimed Martha; throwing her arms around me for the first time since the mailman finally let go of his copy of the Special Issue. "Now," exulted Martha, "I know we'll have good fishing, even when we're in our old age."

And that's how I really learned to cope with the Special Issue; even though it contained an important mis-print in one sentence of my article: "Remember, you can always use light tackle, especially when the surf is high or long." If you CAN determine which word was misprinted, you win a prize. (The prize is a "surf sonar," which helps you locate mermaids in the wash at night.) And since I shall soon start again on articles giving Where-to, let me begin now with a hint as to the mis-print cited above: it reminds me of that other article I might do in the future: "The Tin CAN'T"; wherein I reveal why I refuse to fish in boats nowadays or anymore.

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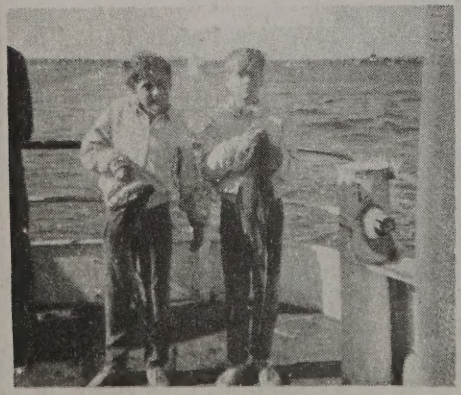


Peter and David Quinn, of Buffalo, N.Y., fished aboard one of Montauk's party boats on a recent vacation trip to Long Island. The fish weighed 8½ and 21 lbs.

CAPTREE

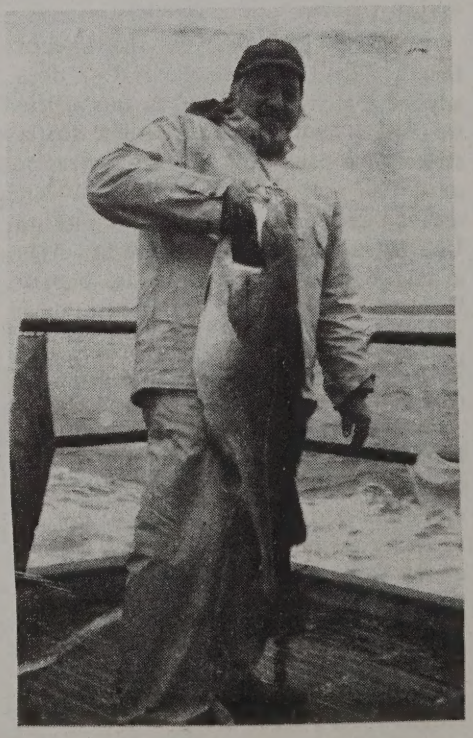
The codfishing off Fire Island remains poor. The few boats that are fishing are only scoring occasionally. The average trip only bags a ½ dozen cod or so. The Captree fleet will begin searching for flounder in the Great South Bay as of this week. From all indications, we should have an early run of flounders.

MONTAUK

The Montauk fishing boats continue to score decently on the cod and pollack. Capt. Paul Forsberg, skipper of the "Viking Star," said the fishing wasn't too good on Saturday because the weather was against him, however, on Sunday he was able to get 121 cod and 77 pollack on one of Block Island's wrecks. Capt. Frank Backnick of the "Viking Starlite" fished right alongside of the Star and he scored with 80 cod and some pollack. The pool was taken by a 20 lb. codfish.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt. Henry Thorschmidt, skipper of the "Blue Albatross," said the offshore fishing has been so bad that he quit trying. He will begin fishing for flounder as of next weekend.



Brother Dominic of Shelter Island's Passionist Fathers caught this 39 lb. codfish while fishing aboard Montauk's "Peconic Queen."

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ATLANTIC BEACH TO MANASQUAN
By Greg Beacher

For the last two weeks, the staff of the L.I.F. has been on vacation. Well, we're back at work and ready to go. This article represents the start of my second year with the L.I.F. As in the past, the Atlantic Beach to Manasquan report will consist of up-to-date fishing news, photos, party boat fishing, fishing club news, fishing tournaments, fishing tips and anything new and interesting. Anyone seeking information on fishing occurring throughout the Atlantic Beach to Manasquan area can obtain their answers by writing to me at the L.I.F.'s Long Island office. And if I forget anything important, drop me a line and let me know.

Last season the flounder fishing was excellent, we had a good spring mackerel run, a productive striper season of large fish, an excellent fluke and bluefish run, the best weakfishing in years, a poor tuna season (except for bonito and albacore), and let's not forget the excellent offshore tile, cod and pollack fishing. Anglers can expect fishing in general to be as good as last year. Due to the fact that winter was some seven weeks late this year, we can expect an early season. As a matter of hook and line fact, at the time of this writing, flounders have already started to show and a few are now being caught in several areas. Shark River, Jamaica Bay, Sheepshead Bay and Reynolds Channel are just a few of the areas. Early bird flounder fishermen are trying and they are catching a few.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reported that the last 2½ weeks were the worst of the season as poor weather made fishing impossible for the most part. Anglers are beginning to get ready for the upcoming flounder season. It's now the first week in March, and if (the big IF) we get a break in the weather, you can be sure that there will be a few flounder fishermen around. You can't pick any hot spot yet, but if you are flounder fishing this weekend, most any inland bay area will represent a seasonal start.

JAMAICA BAY

Postage stamp sized flounders have started to show in different areas along Jamaica Bay. Flounders are also starting to make their presence known at Silver Hole, the Carnarsie Pier and along Beach Channel Drive. So far the action has been slow, but it's a start. It will take some time and some warm weather before the flounder fishing develops into productive fishing.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Codfishing remains off for the season and captains are showing their concern for the present lack of cod in our area. Even at Scallop Ridge, codfishing remains quiet. Whiting and ling fishing at Ambrose Tower, Lightship Ridge and the Mud Hole remains excellent. When the weather permits, boats are able to sail to these areas and they produce good catches for their fares.

Within a couple of weeks, the party boats from this port will be fishing for flounders along with the whiting and ling. Special offshore tilefish, cod and pollack trips are being scheduled at the present time by the Tampa IV and the Ranger IV. The first tilefish trip of the season for the Tampa IV will be on March 31st and she will be sailing for the Hudson Canyon at 11 P.M.; call for reservations.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop reported that it's still quiet around the Staten Island area. There are a few flounders available locally but no one is trying for them. By the middle of March, when anglers get that spring-time itch, they'll be out there, for the only cure for this ailment is some sinker bouncing action.

SANDY HOOK

Party boats from this area are still fishing for whiting and ling. The Scotland Buoy and Lightship Ridge are producing excellent catches. The flounder fishing along this area is just getting under way. A brief period of warm weather should few flounders being caught, but nothing to really speak of.

Shark River seems to be the best spot around. Since mid-February, flounders have been caught here. Since then, river and bulkhead areas are producing more fish as winter slowly slips away, and I do mean slowly. Anglers are getting impatient for the arrival of spring. Party boats sailing from this port are still fishing for whiting and ling. Like every other port in our area, this fishing can't be beat.

MANASQUAN

On February 7th, the Jamaica of Brielle made its first exploratory offshore cod and pollack wreck trip of the new season. The Jamaica traveled some 50 to 80 miles offshore of New Jersey and fished a number of wrecks. They fished a short time on each wreck just to see what's in store for the upcoming season. Fares caught a good number of cod and pollack on these wrecks and the fish ranged from 20 to 30 pounds. Capt. Howard Bogan was quite pleased with the results of the trip, especially since there were larger cod and pollack located on the wrecks fished than in the last two or three spring seasons. One special note: All the offshore wrecks fished by the Jamaica had an abundance of baitfish on them. Herring, mackerel and an unusual amount of squid were caught on bait. These same baitfish were stuffed inside the bellies of the cod and pollack that were caught. With an abundance of both baitfish and cod and pollack, we can expect a good offshore wreck fishing season.

Presently the Jamaica is fishing for whiting and ling at the west end of the Mud Hole. The fishing has been consistent there, with excellent fishing being achieved when the weather is right. The best part is that it's a short ride to the fishing grounds, just 14 miles east northeast of the Manasquan Inlet.

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TIDES: SOUTH SHORE
SANDY HOOK STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.		
Fri.	9:02	9:25
Sat.	9:37	10:00
Sun.	10:12	10:35
Mon.	10:45	11:18
Tues.	11:28	11:59
Wed.	------	12:11
Thur.	12:49	1:10
	1:48	2:18

	H.	M.
MANASQUAN	-0	12
STATEN ISLAND	+0	07
ROCKAWAY INLET	0	00
Bergen Beach	+0	29
J.F.K. Airport	+0	26
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	-0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
JONES INLET	-0	19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Gilgo Island	+2	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0	38
West Great South Bay	+2	10
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
East Great South Bay	+3	44
MORICHES INLET	-0	56
Smiths Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potuak Point	+3	35
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0	50
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.		
Fri.	12:33	12:43
Sat.	12:50	1:02
Sun.	1:15	1:35
Mon.	1:50	2:12
Tues.	2:31	2:55
Wed.	3:18	3:46
Thur.	4:12	4:43
	5:07	5:45

	H.	M.
Little Neck Bay	-0	10
Execution Light	-0	06
Manhasset Bay	-0	01
Hempstead Harbor	-0	11
City Island	-0	03
Rye Beach	-0	28

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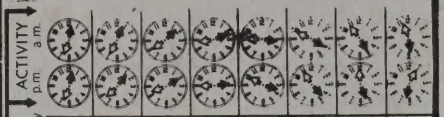
The ACTIVITY CHARTS show the most probable feeding times for fish and wildlife each day, calculated from the relative positions of the sun, the moon, and the earth, A.M. means midnight to noon; P.M. means noon to midnight. PRIMARY activity periods (black arrows) last approximately two to three hours; SECONDARY activity periods (white arrows) last about an hour.



1972	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
date	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
mo	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR
MOON phase								
age	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
dec	S06°	S11°	S16°	S20°	S23°	S25°	S27°	S26°
rise	8:42	9:43	10:44	11:37	12:07	12:42	1:40	2:32
set	7:17	7:40	8:05	8:35	9:09	9:51	10:40	11:37
SUN rise	6:33	6:31	6:29	6:27	6:26	6:25	6:24	6:22
set	5:53	5:53	5:55	5:55	5:56	5:57	5:59	6:00

STANDARD TIME: Bold Face, P.M.: Light Face, A.M.

THE MOON IN MARCH

A – Moon in Apogee, March 4, 2:00 p.m.
◑ – Last Quarter, March 8, 2:05 a.m.
S – Farthest S. of Equator, March 8, 9:00 a.m.
E – Moon on the Equator, March 15, 1:00 a.m.
● – New Moon, March 15, 6:35 a.m.
P – Moon in Perigee, March 16, 4:00 p.m.
N – Farthest N. of Equator, March 21, 4:00 a.m.
◐ – First Quarter, March 21, 9:12 a.m.
E – Moon on the Equator, March 28, 3:00 a.m.
○ – Full Moon, March 29, 3:05 p.m.

ADD 6 HOURS FOR LOW TIDE

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.		
Fri.	12:16	12:36
Sat.	12:51	1:14
Sun.	1:30	1:53
Mon.	2:11	2:37
Tues.	2:54	3:22
Wed.	3:43	4:17
Thur.	4:43	5:21
	5:44	6:22

	H.	M.
Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	-0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jeff Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	-0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
Herod Point	-0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	-0	20
Truman Beach	-0	42

TIDES: B.I. SOUND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.		
Fri.	10:40	11:02
Sat.	11:19	11:40
Sun.	11:58	------
Mon.	12:20	12:41
Tues.	1:01	1:30
Wed.	1:52	2:32
Thur.	2:49	3:33
	3:51	4:37

	H.	M.
Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	-0	14
Fort Pond Bay	-0	29
Montauk Inlet	-0	25
Montauk Point	-1	13

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